

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

January 4th 2012

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. rape	a) youth, under the age of 18 in Alberta
	2. death penalty	b) violent physical or verbal attack
	3. juvenile	c) to ask for something strongly; to say what you want
	4. police checkpoint	d) an argument or serious discussion
	5. assault	e) punishment for a crime is death
	6. naked	f) a very sad or shocking event
	7. debate	g) to force someone to have sex against their will
	8. protest	h) to have no clothes on
	9. demand	i) police stop vehicles looking for suspicious activity
	10. tragedy	j) public gatherings to show anger about a situation

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Five men were accused of _____ on a bus as it drove through India's capital.	a) fighting a 23-year-old woman b) raping a university student
2. These 5 men have now been charged with _____	a) rape, murder and other crimes. b) the death penalty.
3. On December 16 th the 23-year old woman was attacked after _____	a) getting on a bus with a male friend. b) watching a movie alone.
4. _____ attacked for hours as the bus drove through New Delhi.	a) The female university student was b) Both the 23-year-old woman and her male friend were
5. The bus even drove through police checkpoints during _____.	a) the assault b) event
6. The death of the young woman has led to a debate across India about _____.	a) how women are treated. b) how bus drivers and police are trained.
7. Some people believe this tragedy could be a _____.	a) a debate across the world. b) turning point for women's rights.

Discussion Question

When you hear this story, what responsibility do you think the police in New Delhi should take for this terrible event? How can we help women around the world attain basic and equal rights?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

in a row	junior	semi-final (X2)
despite (even though)	lockout	bronze
tournament	gold	NHL

1. To play in the World _____ Hockey league players must be under the age of 20.
2. In order to advance to the final game for the _____ and silver medal, teams must first win the _____ game. If a team loses the _____ game it still has a chance to win a _____ medal.
3. Many sports have _____ where many teams meet and play each other to see which among them is the best.
4. The _____, the most popular hockey league in Canada, is now in a _____ while the players and the owners discuss contracts.
5. _____ the cold, many people go outside to play hockey in the winter.
6. I have gone to Calgary's First Night three years _____.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How many years in a row has Canada not won the gold medal at the Junior hockey championship?
2. Who did the Canadians lose to on Thursday?
3. What was the score of Thursday's game?
4. Because Canada lost the semi-final, what medal do they now hope to win?
5. Why was this loss so shocking for Canadians?
6. How did the Canadians do last year in this tournament?
7. Where was the tournament last year?

Discussion Question

Do you watch hockey? How often do you hear people talking about hockey? What do you know about the NHL lockout? How do you and people you know feel about this lockout?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
attention – interest or awareness
in labour – the last part of pregnancy when the muscles of the womb push the baby out of the body
the clock – the speed, time or date when an event happens
weighed in at – to be officially weighed
title – the official name given to something or someone

1. a lot of attention Movie get stars in places. public

2. her child. first My sister labour was in 18 hours for with

3. worry about Don't clock; the in the race. just do your best

4. boxer The in at weighed 80 kg.

5. 'best cook' He the has title of our family. in

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. _____ Danica Popowich was born on January 1st 2012.
2. _____ She was born at home.
3. _____ Danica's mom is called Shay Popowich.
4. _____ Danica's mom was trying to have a baby on New Year's Day.
5. _____ Danica weighed 9 pounds 6 ounces.

Discussion Questions

What is the best month to have a baby in your opinion?

Have you made any New Year's resolutions this year?

Language Focus

Passive Voice

In the **Active voice** we focus on who is doing the action because the subject of the sentence is the doer of the action.

Ex: Police *charged* the criminal with assault.

In the **Passive voice** we focus on the action itself or on the object receiving the action, rather than who is doing it. The subject of the sentence receives the action.

Ex: The criminal *was charged* with assault (by police.)

We use passive voice in three situations:

1. When the doer of the action is unknown, or not important.
2. When we want to express that the action/event is more important than the actor.
3. When we write a scientific paper or lab report.

Forming the passive voice : 'be' verb + past participle of the main verb.

Present tense: The holiday **is celebrated** around the world.

Past tense: The crime **was committed** by a juvenile.

Future tense: The criminal **will be sent** to jail.

Let's look at some examples adapted from the first story this week. Underline the passive verbs.
Answers are in the appendix.

1. Five men have been charged with murder, rape and other crimes that could bring them the death penalty. (Present perfect passive voice)
2. A sixth suspect was expected to be tried in a juvenile court.
3. The 23-year-old woman was attacked December 16th after getting on the bus with a male friend after watching a movie.
4. The pair were attacked for hours as the bus drove through New Delhi.
5. They were eventually dumped naked on the side of the road.

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JANUARY 4 TH WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo You're listening to Learning English with CBC for January 4 th .	0:00
Story 1	Five men accused of raping a university student for hours on a bus as it drove through India's capital have been charged with murder, rape and other crimes that could bring them the death penalty. A sixth suspect was expected to be tried in a juvenile court. The 23-year-old woman was attacked December 16 th after getting on the bus with a male friend after watching a movie. The pair were attacked for hours as the bus drove through New Delhi, even passing through police checkpoints during the assault. They were eventually dumped naked on the side of the road. The death of the young woman has led to a debate across India about the way women are treated and there have been daily protests demanding action. Some people say this tragedy could be a turning point for women's rights.	0:11
Story 2	For the fourth year in a row, Canada has again gone home from the world junior hockey championship without gold. The Canadians lost 5-1 to the United States in Thursday's semifinal. Canada lost despite having most of the country's best 19-year-old players playing this year, because of the NHL lockout. Canada won bronze last year when the tournament was held in Calgary and Edmonton.	01:33
Story 3	Her name is Danika Shay Popowich. She's just days old, but she's already getting a lot of attention in Calgary. Danika was born at the Foothills Hospital at exactly eleven minutes after midnight on New Year's Day. That makes her Calgary's New Year's Baby for 2013. Danika's mother, Sarah Popowich, was in labour for more than two days. Mom said she wasn't worried about the clock, just the pain! It's her first child. Danika weighed in at 6 pounds, nine ounces. Both mother and daughter are healthy. The title of "New Years Baby" goes to the first child born in the city each year.	02:12

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
g	1. rape	a) youth, under the age of 18 in Alberta
e	2. death penalty	b) violent physical or verbal attack
a	3. juvenile	c) to ask for something strongly; to say what you want
i	4. police checkpoint	d) an argument or serious discussion
b	5. assault	e) punishment for a crime is death
h	6. naked	f) a very sad or shocking event
d	7. debate	g) to force someone to have sex against their will
j	8. protest	h) to have no clothes on
c	9. demand	i) police stop vehicles looking for suspicious activity
f	10. tragedy	j) public gatherings to show anger about a situation

Listening

1. Five men were accused of _____ on a bus as it drove through India's capital.	a) fighting a 23-year-old woman b) raping a university student
2. These 5 men have now been charged with _____	a) rape, murder and other crimes. b) the death penalty.
3. On December 16 th the 23-year old women was attacked after _____	a) getting on a bus with a male friend. b) watching a movie alone.
4. _____ attacked for hours as the bus drove through New Delhi.	a) The female university student was b) Both the 23-year-old woman and her male friend were
5. The bus even drove through police checkpoints during _____.	a) the assault b) event
6. The death of the young woman has led to a debate across India about _____.	a) how women are treated. b) how bus drivers and police are trained.
7. Some people believe this tragedy could be a _____.	a) a debate across the world. b) turning point for women's rights.

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. To play in the World Junior Hockey league players must be under the age of 20.
2. In order to advance to the final game for the gold and silver medal, teams must first win the semi-final game. If a team loses the semi-final game it still has a chance to win a bronze medal.

3. Many sports have tournaments where many teams meet and play each other to see which among them is the best.
4. The NHL, the most popular hockey league in Canada, is now in a lockout while the players and the owners discuss contracts.
5. Despite the cold, many people go outside to play hockey in the winter.
6. I have gone to **Edmonton**'s First Night three years in a row.

Listening

1. How many years in a row has Canada not won the gold medal at the Junior hockey championship? *Four years in a row.*
2. Who did the Canadians lose to on Thursday? *They lost to the United States.*
3. What was the score of Thursday's game? *5-1*
4. Because Canada lost the semi-final, what medal do they now hope to win? *They now hope to win the bronze.*
5. Why was this loss so shocking for Canadians? *The team had most of the country's best 19-year-olds playing because of the NHL lockout.*
6. How did the Canadians do last year in this tournament? *Last year Canada won bronze.*
7. Where was the tournament last year? *Last year the tournament was in Calgary and Edmonton.*

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. Movie stars get a lot of attention in public places.
 2. My sister was in labour for 18 hours with her first child.
 3. Don't worry about the clock; just do your best in the race.
 4. The boxer weighed in at 80kg.
 5. Our dad has the title of 'best cook' in our family.
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1. F Danica Popowich was born on January 1st 2012.
 2. F She was born at home.
 3. T Danica's mom is called Sarah Popowich.
 4. T Danica's mom was not trying to have a baby on New Year's Day.
 5. F Danica weighed 9 pounds 6 ounces.

Language Focus

1. Five men have been charged with murder, rape and other crimes that could bring them the death penalty. (Present perfect passive voice)
2. A sixth suspect was expected to be tried in a juvenile court.
3. The 23-year-old woman was attacked December 16th after getting on the bus with a male friend after watching a movie.
4. The pair were attacked for hours as the bus drove through New Delhi.
5. They were eventually dumped naked on the side of the road.